

Happy 4th of July!!!!

Wish I could be there to celebrate it with family and friends, light a firecracker or drink a cold beer for me.

After months in beautiful New Zealand , we are just about finished our repairs and have launched the boat, were ready to set sail once again for Tonga .

Hard to find a good time to leave with all the storms coming out of the Tasman Sea, but we are so anxious to get to the tropics, we dream of warm waters sandy beaches and palm tree's.

We will leave even if we can't find the perfect weather window and take our chances as long as the storm is heading to Tonga we will just run with it.

We are back under the beautiful skyline and Space needle of Auckland moored in The Viaduct harbor amongst some huge luxury yachts.

One is a new boat called "Big Fish" a power yacht that cost 58 million dollars, it has granite decks, people can really be extravagant.

Even though this is a great place, we are so ready to leave and sail again.

Tonga is the only Kingdom left in the Pacific; it stretches from Fiji to Samoa and is thirteen hundred miles from New Zealand .

It has four groups of Islands; we will go to the Ha'apai group it is the most remote, and is not visited much by most cruising yachts, they go to the more populated Island groups.

Ha'apai has 61 islands, only seventeen are inhabited, and most villages don't have electricity, the cruising guide describes them as "Picture perfect south Pacific scenery: coral reefs, azure blue and turquoise waters, white sand beaches, swaying coconut palms, fruit trees and verdant foliage, sounds great to me, hope we will be there scuba diving and spear fishing in about a week.

Google or You Tube the "Haka" a great Maori tradition, it is a Polynesian war dance, the "All Black " rugby team does it before their game to intimidate their opponents.

I will email again when we get to Tonga